



In the Weeds

Fresh Pond Reservation Volunteer Stewards Update

October 5, 2010



New England Aster, Source: <http://www.performance-vision.com/airline/index.htm>

Thanks to **Jodi, Elizabeth, Richard, and Rebecca** we've been able to keep it up through the rain. Although we did miss 2 Mondays, once because of the cancelled Upper Watershed Tour, and yesterday because Deb needed some Benedryl and a good night's sleep (both of which she got). Welcome **Colleen**, whose first day joining us got cancelled, although she seems undeterred and brings much experience working with invasive plants.

Glacken Slope: We continued to clear the Glacken Slope bioswale and raingarden of yellow nutsedge, black swallowwort, and smartweed, to make way for the ferns and grasses. Before we pass the baton to the landscapers to get in there and clear out the rest of the black locust seedlings, I'd like to use last spring's planting list to survey the plantings at the top of Glacken Slope. I am also looking for a volunteer, perhaps someone who would like to help out from home, who could take the planting list and attach photos from the web (ideally of what the plants look like in the fall) so we can easily identify them in the field.

Old Beeches & Butterfly Meadow: We added to the big pile of mostly glossy buckthorn and few common buckthorns, which Deb thinks looks a lot like the apple trees that also grow there. With the help of weed wrenches we are definitely making significant headway and are researching possible replacements both in the woods under the beeches and in the meadow. We'd like to spend a day in the butterfly meadow getting at the cottonwood seedlings, a bit of mugwort, and a stand of oriental bittersweet.

Seed Dispersal: For those who'd rather plant than pull, I will be monitoring the woods across from the Weir Meadow for white wood asters gone to seed to spread along the slope. Also, I'd like to introduce more asters, goldenrods, and milkweeds into Lusitania from the Kingsley Bioswale. Please let me know if you spot these seeds as you pass by.

Steward Meet up Schedule

Please note we'll meet on Tuesday night instead of Monday night next week.

Thursday October 7: 2 - 4pm

Monday October 11: *Columbus Day* – no meet up

Tuesday October 12: 5:30 – 7pm (or whenever it gets too dark)

Thursday October 14: 2 - 4pm

Monday October 18: (Deb's Bday) 5:30 – 7pm

Meet at the volunteer trailer in the main parking lot by the Water Dept. front door. If you're late, check the map on the trailer to find out where we are. Or call Deb (617) 834-1368. Also, it would be helpful if you let me know the dates you plan on volunteering: dalbenberg@cambridgema.gov.

Save these dates

Tuesday, October 19: The second public **meeting about shared use** of the reservation, West Cambridge Youth Center 680 Huron Ave, 6:30 – 9:00pm. See cbuilding.org/freshpond for more information.

Monday, October 25: Fresh Pond Reservation **Walkabout** with Watershed Manager Chip Norton, Water Dept front door, 5 – 6:30pm.

Thursday, November 4: **Fresh Pond Stewardship Award** will be given to James Barton and Suzanna Black, Water Dept, 6:30 – 8pm.

Monday November 1, 5:30pm and Thursday November 18, 2pm: **Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Project**. We will be assessing beetle damage to purple loosestrife at the golf course by counting and measuring stems in our quadrats, both data collection days will be held during regularly scheduled volunteer meetups.

Related Info

Check out this new park in NYC: <http://www.thehighline.org/>

Invasive Plants at Fresh Pond Reservation, with drawings by Elizabeth Wylde:

Print this out or pick up a copy of the brochure at the Ranger Station:

http://www.cambridgema.gov/CWD/FPRvolunteer_steward.cfm